

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-8, 11-16, and 21-27 remain in the application. Independent claims 1 and 16 have been amended to require a “self-contained” RFID process controller. Support for this amendment can be found on Page 3, line 21 thru Page 4, line 2. Support for this amendment can also be found throughout the specification and in the Figures which all illustrate a single enclosure housing all of the elements of an RFID process controller, as amended, according to the invention.

Independent claims 1 and 16 have also been amended to require that a power management subsystem include a “battery charging circuit” for delivering DC power. Support for this amendment can be found on Page 9, line 16 and in Figure 1.

Independent claims 1 and 16 have also been amended to require the power management subsystem be coupled to one or more attached peripherals via the computer controlled switch for delivering either DC or AC power to the attached peripherals. Support for this amendment can be found on Page 9, lines 15 - 17 and in Figure 1.

Independent claims 1 and 16 have also been amended to require at least one faceplate with an interface consisting of various input/output ports supporting communications with a plurality of industry standard compliant devices. Support for this amendment can be found on page 11, lines 17 - 19 and in Figures 2 - 7.

Claim Rejections:

The Examiner has maintained his rejection of pending claims 1, 3-8, 11-16, and 21-27 and raised new grounds of rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

In maintaining the rejection, the Examiner states that US Patent No. 5,629,981 (the “Nerlikar patent”) clearly teaches or suggests “an enclosure housing an interface, RFID controller, process control software and computer controlled switch and a power supply.” See October 10, 2007 Office Action, page 3, first paragraph. Applicant disagrees.

In the Office Action the Examiner is equating elements of the Nerlikar patent with elements of Applicant’s invention that have no counterpart or do not in any way relate to or that are even closely analogous to elements of Applicant’s invention. For example, the Examiner states “the enclosure of Nerlikar is enclosed..” (See October 10, 2007 Office Action, page 2, last paragraph) without identifying where in the Nerlikar patent an enclosure is shown. Without any explanation or details, the Examiner merely concludes the Nerlikar patent has an enclosure. This is insufficient for maintaining a rejection of the present invention.

The Examiner points to Column 15, lines 42 to 50 in the Nerlikar patent as a place where the Nerlikar patent discloses a computer controlled switch. See October 10, 2007 Office Action, page 2, last paragraph. There is nothing in the Nerlikar patent nor in the location cited by the Examiner that relates to or even suggests a computer controlled switch.

The Examiner cites refurbish equipment (518) but does not explain how refurbish equipment relates to any aspect of Applicant’s present invention. See October 10, 2007 Office Action, page 3, first paragraph. The present invention has nothing to do with refurbish equipment.

The Examiner concludes that Nerlikar teaches or suggests the present invention without specifically showing how the Nerlikar patent teaches or suggests elements of the present

invention. In fact, it is difficult to make sense of the Examiner's arguments as they are filled with a mix of references to the Nerlikar Patent and to Applicant's present invention. For example, the Examiner states "This module communicates with a server, or a network controller" (See October 10, 2007 Office Action, page 3, first paragraph) but does not explain how the "module" or the "server" or the "network controller" relate to the present invention. In fact, Applicant can not really determine what point the Examiner is making as the present invention has nothing to do with a "server" or a "network controller". If the Examiner is equating a "server" or "network controller" to some aspect of Applicant's current invention, the Examiner has failed to show or explain the relationship to the present invention as claimed.

Simply put, the Nerlikar patent does not disclose nor does it relate to or suggest a process controller with an enclosure housing an interface, RFID controller, process control software and computer controlled switch. Quite the contrary, the '981 Patent discloses an information management and security system that includes a host network element. See claim 1 of the '981 Patent. A host network element is seen in Figures 5A and 6 of the '981 Patent where "Network Server" or "Office Central/Switch" is depicted. Thus, contrary to Applicant's invention, with the system of the '981 Patent process control is not achieved at the Point of Action since a single enclosure does not house both the host network element (Network Server or Office Central/Switch) and RFID controller (element 316) of the '981 Patent.

The Examiner equates a "refurbish equipment" of the '981 Patent to an enclosure according to Applicant's invention. Applicant disagrees. According to the '981 Patent, element 518 is described in connection with a printing cassette refurbishing/recycling equipment. See

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‘981 Patent, col. 16, lines 16-18. Applicant’s enclosure has nothing to do with a printing cassette or with refurbishing and/or recycling. Instead, Applicant’s enclosure is used to house an interface, RFID controller, process control software and computer controlled switch.

To further distinguish and clarify what Applicant considers to be the present invention, Applicant has further amended independent claims 1 and 16.

Claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103

The Examiner has further rejected claims 1, 3-8, 12-16 and 22-27 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Nerlikar Patent in view of US Patent No. 5,347,164 (the “Yeh patent”).

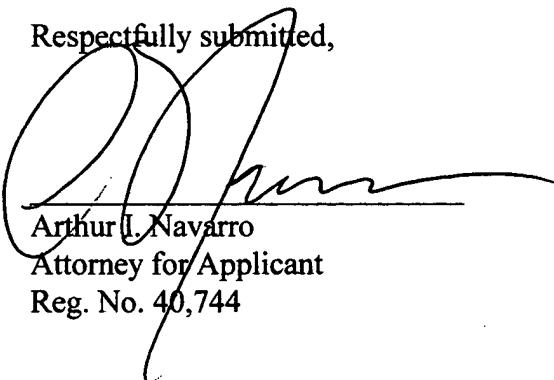
Applicant disagrees with the Examiner’s combination of unrelated references. Simply put, the Nerlikar patent does not in any way relate to or teach the present invention. Therefore, it is improper for the Examiner to combine the Nerlikar patent with another reference in order to reject the present invention under 35 U.S.C. 103.

Applicant would respectfully point out that none of the cited prior art discloses, alone or in combination, an RFID process control system having an enclosure that house an interface, RFID controller, process control software and computer controlled switch. Moreover, none of the cited prior art discloses, relates to, teaches or suggests an RFID process control system having a power management system that provides both DC and AC power.

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Accordingly, Applicant believes pending claims 1, 3-8, 11-16, and 21-27 are in condition for allowance and respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,



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